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Summary of 1969 User Survey

1. Summarized reviews of NIS users in response to a detailed questionnaire (see TAB E) include:

> "The NIS is widely and regularly used, both in Washington and in the field; almost 99% of returns indicated some use of the NIS, with over 54% of responders considering themselves regular users".
>
> "Of the three types of NIS products, the General Survey is used by 86% of those replying, the Factbook by 81%, and the individual detailed sections by as many as 62% or as few as 27%. On the average, consumers reported using nearly half of the various NIS products as listed in the questionnaire".
>
> "Primary use of the NIS is as a background reference (39%); it is also used in direct support of other research and analysis (30%), as a briefing aid (17%), and in support of planning and operations (11%). Nearly half of those responding said they turned to the NIS in crisis situations".
>
> "The main criticism of the NIS is that much of it is out of date and requires more frequent and rapid maintenance (updating)".
>
> "Review of the NIS Program confirms that it is serving its intended purpose of providing comprehensive, reliable, basic information and analysis on foreign areas; its validity and utility are thus reaffirmed".

2. Recommendations based on analysis of the results of the Survey include:

> "A structured, interdepartmental, basic intelligence program should be continued".
>
> "The present commitment of resources of USIB agencies to the NIS should be generally maintained. Some specialized units of limited interest may no longer require NIS publication and dissemination." (This recommendation is in the process of implementation under USIB-D-51.1/20 dated 19 May 1972)

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"The General Survey should be: .....

"Refocused to deemphasize transient and perishable aspects and to stress distinctive characteristics, themes, and trends".

"Published in a 'separate-unit' format (each topical unit having its own cover within a binder). Scheduling by unit rather than Survey would not be attempted on a broad basis until all areas have 'separate-unit' coverage (i.e., in about 3 years). Single-unit maintenance would thenceforth be based on continuing validity of content, relative importance to national security interest, age (all units would be maintained at least every 4 years), and producer capabilities".

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